UNITED
NATIONS

A

General Assembly

Distr.
GENERAL

A/AC.109/PV.1393
10 September 1991

ENGLISH

SPECIAL COMMITTEE ON THE SITUATION WITH REGARD TO THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE DECLARATION ON THE GRANTING OF INDEPENDENCE TO COLONIAL COUNTRIES AND PEOPLES

VERBATIM RECORD OF THE 1393rd MEETING

Held at Headquarters, New York,
on Wednesday, 14 August 1991, at 10 a.m.

Chairman: Mr. SLABY (Czechoslovakia)
(Vice-Chairman)

- Question of Western Sahara (continued)
- Question of Pitcairn: report of the Subcommittee on Small Territories (continued)
- Question of St. Helena: report of the Subcommittee on Small Territories (continued)
- Question of the Trust Territory of the Pacific Islands: report of the Subcommittee on Small Territories (continued)

/...

This record is subject to correction.

Corrections should be submitted in one of the working languages, preferably in the same language as the text to which they refer. They should be set forth in a memorandum and also, if possible, incorporated in a copy of the record. They should be sent, within one week of the date of this document, to the Chief, Official Records Editing Section, Department of Conference Services, room DC2-750, 2 United Nations Plaza.

Any corrections to the records of this meeting and of other meetings will be issued in a corrigendum.

91-61089 5567V (E)

- Questions of American Samoa, Anguilla, Bermuda, British Virgin Islands, Cayman Islands, Guam, Montserrat, Tokelau, Turks and Caicos Islands, United States Virgin Islands: report of the Subcommittee on Small Territories (continued)

- Draft report to the General Assembly

- Activities of foreign economic and other interests which are impeding the implementation of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples in Territories under colonial domination and efforts to eliminate colonialism, apartheid and racial discrimination in southern Africa (continued)

- Military activities and arrangements by colonial powers in Territories under their administration which might be impeding the implementation of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples (continued)

- Implementation of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples by the specialized agencies and the international institutions associated with the United Nations (continued)

- Question of sending visiting missions to Territories

- Organization of work

In the absence of the Chairman, Mr. Slaby (Czechoslovakia), Vice Chairman, took the Chair.

The meeting was called to order at 11.05 p.m.

QUESTION OF WESTERN SAHARA (A/AC.109/1082) (continued)

The CHAIRMAN: In connection with this item, the Committee has before it a working paper prepared by the Secretariat (A/AC.109/1082).

Members will recall that at its 1387th meeting, on 9 August, the Committee granted a request for hearing relating to this item. Accordingly, I invite Mr. Mouloud Said, on behalf of the Frente POLISARIO, to take a place at the petitioners' table.

At the invitation of the Chairman, Mr. Mouloud Said (Frente POLISARIO), took a place at the petitioners' table.

The CHAIRMAN: I call on Mr. Said.

Mr. SAID (interpretation from Spanish): Allow me first, Sir, to congratulate the Chairman on his election to the Chair of the current session of the Special Committee, which has the noble task of protecting and upholding the rights of peoples still under colonial rule. His qualifications and great experience guarantee the successful outcome of this session's work. I should also like to congratulate all the other officers of the Committee.

Speaking in the Committee on behalf of the Sahraoui people, I wish to express our gratitude to the Special Committee of 24, which for almost a quarter of a century has considered with such great interest the legitimate right of the Sahraoui people to self-determination and independence. It is thanks to the efforts of the Special Committee that the question of Western Sahara at the United Nations has reached its present stage. Notwithstanding the advanced phase the peace process has reached, the question of Western

(Mr. Said)

Sahara remains - and will remain - the responsibility of the Special Committee until the Sahraoui people has freely expressed its legitimate right to self-determination, until the definitive decolonization of Western Sahara.

The settlement plan prepared by the United Nations, in cooperation with the Organization of African Unity (OAU), and adopted unanimously by the Security Council on 29 April this year, constitutes an honourable compromise, one which, if strictly implemented, with full respect for both its letter and spirit, will enable the Sahraoui people freely to choose its own future.

Success in the implementation of the settlement plan depends to a great extent - and, indeed, primarily - on the will and the level of cooperation of the two parties with the United Nations. Recognizing the fact that the objective of the plan is to define, under the auspices of the United Nations and the OAU, the status of and sovereignty over Western Sahara, within its internationally recognized frontiers, it would make no sense at all if one of the parties were to place obstacles in the way of the implementation phase of the plan, demanding respect for its sovereignty as if what were happening were just a referendum on an internationally recognized part of Moroccan territory.

(Mr. Said)

The POLISARIO Front wanted to believe that Morocco had accepted the peace plan in good faith, but Morocco has not exactly convinced us of its good will. In the implementation phase of the peace process, whenever we move ahead we find new impediments arising, as testified to by the Moroccan air raids of 4 and 5 August in areas under Sahraoui control, together with the massive concentration of Moroccan troops that is now taking place, suggests the possibility that they may intend to cross their defensive lines, which would not bode well for the successful outcome of the peace plan.

For the sake of peace in the region, we would hope that Morocco would adopt a constructive position which would enable the United Nations and the OAU to complete the noble mission they have set themselves, so that the United Nations - and only the United Nations - would be enabled to interpret and implement the settlement plan the two parties have formally endorsed.

Since the beginning of the peace process in 1986, the POLISARIO Front has adopted a position of full cooperation with the United Nations and the OAU, and it is thanks to its flexibility and open-mindedness that the preparation of the peace plan was facilitated.

Now that we find ourselves on the eve of the formal entry into force of the cease-fire, on 6 September this year, the POLISARIO Front and the Sahraoui Government solemnly declare their total commitment to the letter and spirit of the settlement plan and their full and sincere cooperation with the United Nations and the OAU for the strict and total implementation of the peace plan.

The POLISARIO Front wishes to pay a special tribute to the Secretary-General and his staff, and to the OAU, for their efforts to find a just and definitive solution to this 16-year-old conflict between the Sahraoui people and Morocco.

(Mr. Said)

Before concluding, I should like to thank those countries that have recognized the Sahraoui Republic for the firm and unconditional support they have given the Sahraoui cause, which has done much to help it reach its present phase, with an imminent solution in sight.

Moreover, we should like to thank all the countries that have contributed staff to the United Nations Mission for the Referendum in Western Sahara (MINURSO) in various spheres, as well as those that have contributed to the special fund for the repatriation of Sahraoui refugees.

With your permission, Sir, and while still speaking as a petitioner, I have a small comment to make on working paper A/AC.109/1082. While this is a completely factual document, there is one paragraph to which we could not fail to draw attention. However, before making my comment, I wish to congratulate those involved in the preparation of the document; I know it has not been easy to compile all the information for the past year.

Paragraph 29 reports the visit of His Majesty King Hassan II to the city of Smara in the occupied Territory of Western Sahara; it is based on an article which appeared in El Pais of 25 April 1991. A sentence of this article taken out of context changes the import of the article totally. It says:

> "On 18 May 1991, it was reported that King Hassan II had visited the city of Smara, in the Territory, where tens of thousands of people came to greet him." (A/AC.109/1082, para. 29)

There was another article published on that same date in El Pais, describing how those thousands of people came together. They had been forced out of their homes in El Aaiun, Dakhla and various other Sahraoui cities and made to greet Hassan II. They spent a week in concentration camps where they had to

(Mr. Said)

await the arrival of the Moroccan King. That sentence is taken completely out of context and totally alters the sense of what happened, since it leaves the reader under the impression that he received a warm popular greeting.

Mr. Said withdrew.

The CHAIRMAN: Does any member wish to speak at this stage? Since that is not the case, the Committee will continue consideration of the item at a subsequent meeting.

QUESTION OF PITCAIRN: REPORT OF THE SUBCOMMITTEE ON SMALL TERRITORIES (A/AC.109/L.1762) (continued)

QUESTION OF ST. HELENA: REPORT OF THE SUBCOMMITTEE ON SMALL TERRITORIES (A/AC.109/L.1763) (continued)

QUESTION OF THE TRUST TERRITORY OF THE PACIFIC ISLANDS: REPORT OF THE SUBCOMMITTEE ON SMALL TERRITORIES (A/AC.109/L.1764) (continued)

QUESTIONS OF AMERICAN SAMOA, ANGUILLA, BERMUDA, BRITISH VIRGIN ISLANDS, CAYMAN ISLANDS, GUAM, MONTSERRAT, TOKELAU, TURKS AND CAICOS ISLANDS, UNITED STATES VIRGIN ISLANDS: REPORT OF THE SUBCOMMITTEE ON SMALL TERRITORIES (A/AC.109/L.1765 and Corr.2) (continued)

The CHAIRMAN: We shall first take up the report relating to the question of Pitcairn, contained in document A/AC.109/L.1762.

If there are no comments, may I take it that the Committee adopts the report and approves the draft decision contained therein?

It was so decided.

The CHAIRMAN: The Committee has thus concluded consideration of the item.

(The Chairman)

We shall next take up the report relating to St. Helena, contained in document A/AC.109/L.1763. If there are no comments, I shall take it that the Committee adopts the report and approves the draft decision contained therein.

It was so decided.

The CHAIRMAN: The Committee has thus concluded consideration of the item.

We shall next take up the report relating to the Trust Territory of the Pacific Islands, contained in document A/AC.109/L.1764. If there are no comments, I shall take it that the Committee adopts the report and approves the draft resolution contained therein.

It was so decided.

The CHAIRMAN: Does any member wish to comment on this item?

Mr. LEHNE (Norway): My delegation joined the consensus in the adoption of this part of the report of the Subcommittee, but I wish to state for the official record of this meeting that Norway has formal reservations on this draft resolution, based on the fact that Norway, in accordance with Article 83 of the Charter, is of the opinion that this item does not fall within the competence of the General Assembly or any of its subsidiary bodies.

Mr. FIOL (Chile) (interpretation from Spanish): The delegation of Chile also joined the consensus in the consideration of this item. However, we wish to place on record that it believes that consideration of this item is not within the competence of the Special Committee, bearing in mind that the Trust Territory of the Pacific Islands, in accordance with the relevant resolution adopted by the General Assembly, is a strategic Territory and hence it is up to the Trusteeship Council to consider its status and that of its

(Mr. Fiol, Chile)

population. It is through that Council and the Security Council that decisions should be taken on the future of the Territory.

The CHAIRMAN: Permit me to speak at this time on behalf of the delegation of Czechoslovakia. In doing so, I should like to join previous speakers and the delegation of Norway in making a formal reservation in connection with the adoption of the draft resolution on the Trust Territory of the Pacific Islands. It is the opinion of the Czechoslovak delegation that the Special Committee, in accordance with Article 83 of the United Nations Charter, is not mandated to deal with this Territory.

Mr. KOLAROV (Bulgaria): My delegation joined the consensus on this issue, but I should like to state for the record our formal reservations concerning consideration of this question in the Special Committee, inasmuch as we consider the discussion of this issue goes beyond the competence of the Special Committee, in accordance with Article 83 of the United Nations Charter.

The CHAIRMAN: Since there are no further comments, the Committee has thus concluded consideration of the item.

We shall next take up the report relating to American Samoa, Anguilla, Bermuda, British Virgin Islands, Cayman Islands, Guam, Montserrat, Tokelau, Turks and Caicos Islands and United States Virgin Islands, contained in document A/AC.109/L.1765. In this connection, I wish to draw members' attention to corrigenda 1 - issued in Russian only - and 2 to document A/AC.109/L.1765.

If there are no comments, I shall take it that the Committee adopts the report and approves the draft omnibus resolution on the above Territories contained therein.

It was so decided.

The CHAIRMAN: Does any member wish to comment on this item?

Mr. LEHNE (Norway): Actually, I had some comments to make on the report and it was my understanding that the matter could be resolved without taking it up from the floor. That is why I joined the consensus. The report we have before us contains 20 paragraphs that have not been decided upon by the Subcommittee, and thus not deliberated upon by the Committee at all. They have not been the subject of negotiations, and to my surprise I saw that we had these 20 new paragraphs in the report.

I spoke with the persons who inserted these 20 paragraphs, because they are identical - two paragraphs for each of the 10 Territories contained in the draft resolution. Since they are identical and since they are repeated with regard to all 10 Territories, it seemed very natural and in line with our agreement to have an omnibus draft resolution so that these 20 paragraphs could be reduced to two paragraphs and be put into section A of the draft omnibus resolution.

Furthermore, I had the impression that this would be agreeable also because the procedures regarding these paragraphs did not follow the formal requirements for their insertion as agreed upon by the Subcommittee. So in spite of the fact that we have just adopted this part of the report, I would appeal to the Committee that we put these two paragraphs into section A and delete them from section B.

Mr. LOHIA (Papua New Guinea): I was also hoping that this matter would be amicably resolved before a decision was taken, but I am sure that the members of the Subcommittee on Small Territories are fully aware of my submissions in both informal and formal consultations on these matters as they relate to the island developing countries.

(Mr. Lohia, Papua New Guinea)

As the Committee knows, the language that we have adopted for all 10 Territories is drawn from what has occurred here in New York in the consideration of island developing countries and the action taken by the Economic and Social Council. I see no difficulty in the Committee adopting them.

When I made the submission, I also heard from a number of delegations, formally, informally and through consultations, that there were no difficulties in having them adopted, especially for the Pacific Island Territories. But we have also had extensive consultations with the Caribbean representatives on the possibility of having them applied to those Territories. I know of the recurrence of the two paragraphs in the preambular and operative parts of the resolutions on all 10 Territories, and of the need for them to be brought to part A of the omnibus resolution.

I agree to that, but I would like once again to be assured, as I was in the Subcommittee on Small Territories, that part A of the omnibus draft resolution will be read together with the specific resolutions on the 10 Territories. I have been given assurances and I have an agreement with the Norway delegation to have those paragraphs removed from part B and included in part A of the omnibus draft resolution. So I am in agreement, and if it is the wish of the Chairman to proceed in that manner, I am sure the others will agree to go along with it.

Mr. BEREZOVSKY (Union of Soviet Socialist Republics) (interpretation from Russian): The Soviet delegation seeks clarification on the procedure for discussing this document. We would be pleased to receive some information from the representative of Norway, who did not identify to which two paragraphs of the document he was referring. The Soviet delegation is not a member of the Subcommittee that worked out this draft decision, and we would

(Mr.Berezovsky, USSR)

therefore like to have a more precise idea of what this is all about before we take any decisions.

We would also like to have light shed on the procedure. I had understood that we had already adopted the draft resolution, but we are now apparently in the process of revising it. Perhaps some new decision is needed.

Mr. LEHNE (Norway): I fully understand the question and confusion expressed by our colleague from the Soviet Union. In fact, I was rather confused myself, because when we had finished the work of the Subcommittee and adopted the draft resolution, we had in fact adopted a draft resolution which did not contain the 20 paragraphs to which I am referring. There are one preambular paragraph and one operative paragraph that for some reason were included in the report after the Subcommittee adopted it without them, and I do not know with what justification the Secretariat has included them.

In the first resolution, on American Samoa, on page 8 of the English version of the report, the third preambular paragraph refers to natural disasters and environmental degradation, and recalls the recommendations of the Meeting of Governmental Experts of Island Developing Countries. I have nothing against the substance of that text. The trouble is that it is repeated word for word in every one of the 10 resolutions. Since there is identical language in all of them, I would like to have that language in part A of the omnibus resolution, because it is in line with the principle of the omnibus text as a whole. There is also the formal fact that the Subcommittee has never dealt with this language as it stands here.

In that same text on American Samoa, there is another paragraph on page 8 - operative paragraph 3 - referring to a text entitled "Challenges and opportunities: A strategic framework", which was adopted at the Meeting of

(Mr. Lehne, Norway)

Governmental Experts of Island Developing Countries. This is also an uncontroversial text, but I cannot see a justification for repeating these paragraphs in each resolution, which is the way the Secretariat has prepared this document, without consulting the Subcommittee. There is an agreement and understanding between the Ambassador of Papua New Guinea and myself that, instead of repeating these paragraphs 10 times, we put them into part A, which is the principal part of the omnibus resolution.

I am not opening or reopening anything following the agreement of the Subcommittee. I am simply referring to some paragraphs that have been included without the formal acceptance of the Subcommittee.

The CHAIRMAN: It is understood that the comments made by the delegations that have just spoken will be reflected in the record of the meeting and taken into account in the preparation of the Committee's report to the General Assembly.

May I take it that the Committee agrees with the adoption of the report as orally revised?

It was so decided.

Ms. BERMUDEZ (Cuba) (interpretation from Spanish): I would simply like to clarify one point concerning the draft resolution on American Samoa. In the Spanish version, on pages 8 and 9, in the last preambular paragraph, we read "bearing in mind the fragile economy of Anguilla". I believe that this is a mistake.

The CHAIRMAN: I can assure the representative of Cuba that this will be corrected in the revised version.

Since there are no further comments, the Committee has thus concluded consideration of the item.

That concludes the Committee's consideration of all the reports of the Subcommittee on Small Territories. I should like in this connection to place on record our most sincere appreciation to the Chairman of the Subcommittee, Mr. Ghazi Jomaa of Tunisia, and the Rapporteur, Mr. José Acosta-Fragachan of Venezuela, for the active role they have played in bringing the work of the Subcommittee to a successful conclusion. I wish also to thank all the members of the Subcommittee for their constructive contributions to the work of the Subcommittee.

It is my personal opinion that the achievement of such a great success as the adoption of the omnibus resolution is undoubtedly a very good step towards improving the effectiveness of this Committee in the future.

DRAFT REPORT TO THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY

The CHAIRMAN: In order to facilitate the submission in good time of the Committee's report to the General Assembly, I would suggest that, in keeping with past practice adopted by the Committee at previous sessions, the Rapporteur be requested to prepare and submit to the Assembly the various chapters of the report covering the items on which the Committee has concluded consideration. If the Committee has no objection to that time-honoured practice, it will be so decided.

It was so decided.

ACTIVITIES OF FOREIGN ECONOMIC AND OTHER INTERESTS WHICH ARE IMPEDING THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE DECLARATION ON THE GRANTING OF INDEPENDENCE TO COLONIAL COUNTRIES AND PEOPLES IN TERRITORIES UNDER COLONIAL DOMINATION AND EFFORTS TO ELIMINATE COLONIALISM, APARTHEID AND RACIAL DISCRIMINATION IN SOUTHERN AFRICA (continued)

MILITARY ACTIVITIES AND ARRANGEMENTS BY COLONIAL POWERS IN TERRITORIES UNDER THEIR ADMINISTRATION WHICH MIGHT BE IMPEDING THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE DECLARATION ON THE GRANTING OF INDEPENDENCE TO COLONIAL COUNTRIES AND PEOPLES (continued)

IMPLEMENTATION OF THE DECLARATION ON THE GRANTING OF INDEPENDENCE TO COLONIAL COUNTRIES AND PEOPLES BY THE SPECIALIZED AGENCIES AND THE INTERNATIONAL INSTITUTIONS ASSOCIATED WITH THE UNITED NATIONS (continued)

The CHAIRMAN: The Committee will now continue its general debate on these items.

Mr. LOHIA (Papua New Guinea): The problems of small Territories are peculiar and unique to that group of countries, and are in many cases additional to those of island developing countries. Besides the major problems of small size and population, limited natural resources and market size, single crop economy, fluctuating prices and proneness to natural disasters, Non-Self-Governing Territories and other colonial Territories are dependent on their respective administering Powers for economic and technical assistance, some areas of governmental operations and legislative assent.

Increasingly, the level and focus of economic and technical assistance from administering Powers do not satisfy the expanding developmental needs of the Territories concerned or are channelled through multilateral donor agencies. The United Nations and its specialized agencies continue to play an increasingly important role in providing additional external assistance to these Territories without bilateral considerations. The United Nations Development Programme provides assistance to these Territories directly through multi-island and regional projects of the Indicative Planning Figures (IDF), and also co-ordinates the activities of other organizations within the United Nations system.

(Mr. Lohia, Papua New Guinea)

Since its sixth session, the United Nations General Assembly has adopted resolutions concerning the participation of Non-Self-Governing and other colonial Territories in the work of the United Nations and its specialized agencies. In resolutions adopted at the forty-fifth session, the General Assembly called upon the administering Powers to facilitate the participation of Territories under their administration in regional and international organizations, including specialized agencies.

In many respects, Non-Self-Governing and other colonial Territories do participate in United Nations bodies and specialized agencies, either through the delegations of their administering Powers or as associate members. However, there are impediments to the participation of some Non-Self-Governing Territories in the specialized agencies, as a result of policy decisions of an administering Power, the cost of such membership or procedural arrangements of the agency. In one particular instance, a Non-Self-Governing Territory - Montserrat - has been trying unsuccessfully for several years to gain entry into a specialized agency, even though it is willing to pay the contribution and despite several resolutions of the General Assembly calling on the administering Powers concerned to facilitate its re-admission.

As part of its new approach, the Committee could seek to identify all obstacles to the fullest participation of the Non-Self-Governing and other colonial Territories in the United Nations bodies and specialized agencies and, where these obstacles are institutional, to work with those agencies to eliminate them. Where the obstacles are with the administering Powers, their attention should be drawn to them and their cooperation sought in removing them. There should also be a review mechanism as part of this process.

(Mr. Lohia, Papua New Guinea)

The Working Group established by the Caribbean Development and Cooperation Committee (CDCC) to promote the access of Non-Self-Governing and other colonial Territories to United Nations assistance is to be commended and should receive the support of the Committee. Similar arrangements should be extended to other Non-Self-Governing Territories.

I wish to inform the Committee of my appeal to the Association of Small Island States, which participates in the intergovernmental negotiations on climate change, and to the Group of 77 for the inclusion of Non-Self-Governing and other colonial Territories in their considerations.

A new process of consultations with the specialized agencies could include an assessment by each agency of the participation of Non-Self-Governing Territories in its membership and programmes with a view to amending its rules of procedure to allow for membership where none exists. Consultations could also be held with administering Powers when it is known that a Non-Self-Governing Territory's request for membership is being denied.

Finally, as the last Chairman of this Committee's Subcommittee on Petitions, Information and Assistance, I have found that there has been a lack of participation on the part of the specialized agencies and other organizations. I have found it difficult to understand why this is so. I also note that for many years it has been a tradition in the Committee that the Secretary-General's office has not been involved in monitoring the activities of specialized agencies and other institutions in the work of this Committee with reference to Non-Self-Governing and other colonial Territories.

Therefore, I would appeal to the Committee that, in its consideration of the resolution on the implementation of the Declaration on the Granting of

(Mr. Lohia, Papua New Guinea)

Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples, as it relates to specialized agencies and other international institutions, it request the Secretary-General to transmit whatever resolution we adopt to the specialized agencies of the United Nations and other bodies and also request aid to monitor it, so that these institutions may actively participate in the work of this Committee as we write the last chapter of decolonization in response to the Declaration on the Eradication of Colonialism by the year 2000.

The CHAIRMAN: The Committee has thus concluded the general debate on these items.

QUESTION OF SENDING VISITING MISSIONS TO TERRITORIES

Mr. LEHNE (Norway): I wish to refer to our decision on 9 August, when the Committee adopted the draft resolution in document A/AC.109/L.1758 on the question of sending visiting missions to Territories. My delegation joined in the consensus but inadvertently failed to put on record its reservations on two paragraphs in that draft resolution.

The two paragraphs refer to some administering Powers not participating in the work of the Special Committee. A preambular paragraph notes this fact with regret and an operative paragraph calls upon those Powers to reconsider their decisions. My delegation agrees with these appeals to those administering Powers, but in the context of the draft resolution we adopted on 9 August, in which we talk about the question of sending visiting missions, we feel that it is inappropriate for this Committee to mention that fact. We therefore have reservations on the sixth preambular paragraph and on operative paragraph 3 of that draft resolution.

ORGANIZATION OF WORK

Mr. HAGOSS (Ethiopia): It should be recalled that, in our last Bureau meeting, we found it appropriate to have the last resolution of the Economic and Social Council pertaining to specialized agencies circulated among Bureau members. I was wondering if we might extend the same courtesy to the other members of the Committee of 24. Perhaps the Secretary of the Committee could help us by circulating the authentic version to all members of the Committee of 24, as we are holding consultations on a matter pertaining to the specialized agencies.

The CHAIRMAN: I have just been informed that this text has now been distributed by the Secretariat.

Mr. LEHNE (Norway): I believe that I am recalling correctly that it was decided by the Committee that its Rapporteur, on the basis of that text of the Economic and Social Council, should present a revised draft to the Committee. Since it is now Wednesday and since the deliberations of the Committee are to be completed by Friday, I wonder when we might expect to see this text which the Rapporteur was committed to present to us.

Mr. HAGOSS (Ethiopia): On my way to this Conference Room, I took my daily bread of documents, as it were, and that resolution was not in the package. That is why I proposed that it be circulated. If it is one that we can get on request I shall proceed accordingly, and I thank the Secretariat for having had the foresight to circulate it earlier.

The CHAIRMAN: I now call on the Secretary of the Committee.

Mr. DE SOUZA (Secretary of the Committee) (interpretation from French): The representative of Norway referred to a revised draft resolution that the Rapporteur was to present to the Committee. Since the Rapporteur is not here, I can only convey that question to him.

As concerns the availability of the resolution adopted by the Economic and Social Council this year in Geneva, the official text of that resolution has not yet been issued, but the version that was adopted, with the exception of one paragraph - operative paragraph 7 - is available at the documents' counter in this room.

Mr. LEHNE (Norway): The explanation just given by the Secretariat is satisfactory. Nevertheless, the fact remains that we do not have a draft resolution on that issue before us. It is now Wednesday and I still wonder how we can finish our deliberations without the draft text, in accordance with decisions already taken by the Committee.

The CHAIRMAN: I should like to remind members that, according to our programme of work contained in aide-mémoire 11/91, our summer session is scheduled to close on 15 August.

Therefore, it would appear at this stage that, unless the Committee decides otherwise or agrees to hold night meetings, we have only three meetings, including this afternoon's, to complete our work.

We still have to agree on two draft resolutions and a draft decision relating to foreign economic and other interests, implementation of the Declaration by the specialized agencies, and military activities and arrangements.

The open-ended Working Group has been consulting for some time on the related documents. Under the circumstances, I can only reiterate my appeal to members to intensify their efforts to reach agreement as soon as possible on the drafts before them. In this connection, I understand from the Secretariat that, even if an agreement on those drafts is reached later today, we may not be able to take action on them on Thursday unless the 24-hour rule is waived. That forecast is based on the most optimistic scenario: the assumption that the processing services would be able to process those drafts overnight in order to make them available for consideration on Thursday. The Committee's urgent attention is drawn to that situation.

Mr. HAGOSS (Ethiopia): Indeed, as you have already indicated, Mr. Chairman, time is not on our side. But at the same time it must be noted that delegations have not been idle inasmuch as the consideration of the relevant draft resolutions are concerned.

In fact my delegation has been involved in the consultations that are being informally and ably led by the representative of Papua New Guinea, so that perhaps some kind of consensus text could be proposed to the Working Group for final scrutinization and recommendation to the full Committee. Again, we are aware of the legal and time parameters within which our colleagues in the Secretariat operate. We are keenly aware of them, but in order to ensure that the texts adopted are acceptable to all of us, we have decided to make yet another effort so that we can see eye to eye on some controversial issues.

Again, I am sure that the delegations involved in these consultations will make an extra effort, but these are also the realities as far as delegations are concerned.

The CHAIRMAN: I fully share the feelings just expressed by the representative of Ethiopia, but I would just point out that, since the middle of last week, we have held two meetings a day. I believe that the agendas of those meetings were rather heavy and that we have been working hard these past few days.

May I ask delegations whether they wish to meet informally, since we have now concluded the agenda for this meeting?

Mr. LOHIA (Papua New Guinea): My delegation is not ready to go into the work of the drafting committee at this time because on the basis of our informal consultations we have not yet received any feedback from the liberation movements and delegations both within and outside the Committee, especially delegations from the African Group.

The CHAIRMAN: I share the opinion of the representative of Papua New Guinea, so I propose that we keep the agendas for today's meetings as scheduled in the Journal.

I wish to remind members that this afternoon we shall proceed to take action on draft resolution A/AC.109/L.1767 on the question of the Falkland Islands (Malvinas) and, I hope, on draft resolution A/AC.109/L.1769/Rev.1 relating to the Special Committee decision of 15 August 1990 concerning Puerto Rico.

The meeting rose at 12.05 p.m.